

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3-7 are now pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 2, which has been cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ueno et al. (US 2002/0108702 A1) in view of Oshima (U.S. Pat. No. 6,688,789 B2). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites "the identification mark being provided between said plurality of substrate sheets." In contrast, as noted in this Rejection, Ueno merely discloses the use of a detection mark on the dye receptor layer. This structure is shown, for example, in Figure 5. Thus, this reference fails to disclose or suggest a structure in which the identification mark is provided between the plurality of substrate sheets as recited in Claim 1. Such a structure can enable the identification mark to be less likely to be visually perceived from the external appearance of the image forming sheet as also recited in Claim 1. Oshima similarly fails to disclose or suggest the feature of the present invention in which the identification mark is provided between the plurality of substrate sheets.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 1 is patentable over Ueno et al. and Oshima, either singly or in combination. Since the remaining claims depend

from Claim 1, either directly or indirectly, Applicants respectfully assert that they are likewise patentable for at least the reasons discussed above.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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